

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

On page 1, insert above line 1, insert--Priority Claim

The present application claims priority on European Patent Application 03103632.0 filed October 1, 2003.--

On page 1, above line 1, insert--Field of the Invention--

The paragraph on line 1 of page 1 has been amended as follows:

-- The present invention relates to an assembly for use in a wellbore formed in an earth formation, the assembly comprising an expandable tubular element. ~~In the industry of wellbore construction for the exploitation of hydrocarbon fluid from earth formations, expandable tubular elements find increasing application. A main advantage of expandable tubular elements in wellbores relates to the increased available internal diameter downhole for fluid production or for the passage of tools, compared to conventional wellbores with a nested casing scheme. Generally, an expandable tubular element is installed by lowering the unexpanded tubular element into the wellbore, whereafter an expander is pushed, pumped or pulled through the tubular element. The expansion ratio, being the ratio of the diameter after expansion to the diameter before expansion, is determined by the effective diameter of the expander.~~

On page 1, above line 18, insert--Background of the Invention

In the industry of wellbore construction for the exploitation of hydrocarbon fluid from earth formations, expandable tubular elements find increasing application. A main advantage of expandable tubular elements in wellbores relates to the increased available internal diameter downhole for fluid production or for the passage of tools, compared to conventional wellbores with a nested casing scheme. Generally, an expandable tubular element is installed by lowering the unexpanded tubular element into the wellbore, whereafter an expander is pushed, pumped or pulled through the tubular element. The expansion ratio, being the ratio of the diameter after expansion to the diameter before expansion, is determined by the effective diameter of the expander.--

On page 2, above line 3, insert--Summary of the Invention

--An assembly for use in a wellbore formed in an earth formation, comprising an expandable tubular element and an outer structure having first and second portions arranged at a distance from each other, said portions being restrained to the tubular element in a manner that said distance changes as a result of radial expansion of the tubular element, the outer structure further having a third portion arranged to move radially outward upon said change in distance between the first and second portions, wherein said radially outward movement of the third portion is larger than radially outward movement of the tubular element as a result of radial expansion of the tubular element, wherein the tubular element is susceptible of axial shortening upon radial expansion thereof, and wherein said first and second portions of the outer structure are connected to the tubular element at respective locations axially spaced from each other. --

On page 2, delete line 3-33.

On page 3, delete line 1-17

On page 3, above line 21, insert--Brief Description of the Drawings

The present invention is better understood by reading the following description of non-limitative embodiments with reference to the attached drawings, wherein like parts of each of the figures are identified by the same reference characters, and which are briefly described as follows:--

Paragraph on line 18 of page 3, ending on line 16 of page 4, has been amended as follows:

~~The invention will be described hereinafter in more detail and by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:~~

The present invention is better understood by reading the following description of non-limitative embodiments with reference to the attached drawings, wherein like parts of each of the figures are identified by the same reference characters, and which are briefly described as follows:--

Fig. 1A schematically shows an embodiment of an assembly according to one embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 1B schematically shows the embodiment of Fig. 1A during radial expansion of the tubular element thereof;

Fig. 2A schematically shows a variation to the embodiment of Fig. 1A;

Fig. 2B schematically shows the variation embodiment of Fig. 2A during radial expansion of the tubular element thereof;

Fig. 3A schematically shows a first alternative embodiment of an assembly according to one embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 3B schematically shows the first alternative embodiment during radial expansion of the tubular element thereof;

Fig. 4A schematically shows a second alternative embodiment of an assembly according to the invention;

Fig. 4B schematically shows the second alternative embodiment during radial expansion of the tubular element thereof;

Fig. 5A schematically shows a third alternative embodiment of an assembly according to one embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 5B schematically shows the third alternative embodiment during radial expansion of the tubular element thereof; and

Figs. 6-9 schematically show a wellbore in which the assembly of Figs. 1A, 1B has been installed to allow setting of a packer in the tubular element. --

On page 4, delete line 17 and 18.

On page 4, above line 19 insert--Detailed Description of the Invention--

On page 11, after line 7, add the following paragraphs:

--In accordance with one embodiment of the invention there is provided an assembly for use in a wellbore formed in an earth formation, comprising an expandable tubular element and an outer structure having first and second portions arranged at a distance from each other, said portions being restrained to the tubular element in a manner that said distance changes as a result of radial expansion of the tubular element, the outer structure further having a third portion arranged to move radially outward upon said change in distance between the first and second portions, wherein said radially outward movement of the third portion is larger than radially outward movement of the tubular element as a result of radial expansion of the tubular element.

In this manner it may be achieved that, by radially expanding the tubular element, the third portion of the outer structure is moved radially outward over a larger distance than the wall of the tubular element, thereby locally providing an increased expansion diameter.

Suitably the third portion is arranged to move radially outward as a result of a decrease in distance between the first and second portions.

By allowing the third portion to move radially outward by bending, the application of hinges in the outer structure can be avoided.

In a preferred embodiment the tubular element is susceptible of axial shortening upon radial expansion thereof, and said first and second portions of the outer structure are connected to the tubular element at respective locations axially spaced from each other. Furthermore, the first and second portions of the outer structure suitably can be welded to the tubular element at said respective locations axially spaced from each other.

Suitably said tubular element is an inner tubular element and the outer structure is an outer expandable tubular element arranged around the inner tubular element, and wherein the outer tubular element, when unrestrained from the inner tubular element, is susceptible to less axial shortening as a result of radial expansion than the inner tubular element. To create a wellbore packer, an annular space is suitably formed between the inner tubular element and the outer tubular element upon radial expansion of the inner tubular element, which space is filled with a fluidic compound, for example a hardenable fluidic compound. Optionally a flexible layer of sealing material can be arranged around the outer tubular element.--

On page 12, above line 1, insert --We claim:--